

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 11497 212229Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 PA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 COME-00 GSA-02 INT-05 /048 W
-----003417 222038Z /53
R 210735Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3360

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, TH
SUBJECT: THAI ZINC

1. BANGKOK BUSINESS TIMES OF APRIL 20 CARRIED FRONT-PAGE
STORY BY LOS ANGELES TIMES CORRESPONDENT GEORGE
MACARTHUR QUOTING UNNAMED MEMBER OF EMBASSY STAFF AS
HAVING TOLD HIM THERE IS NO CHANCE THAI ZINC PROJECT
WILL GO AHEAD AND RTG HAD BEEN INFORMED.

2. EMBASSY ISSUED STATEMENT WHICH WAS FRONT-PAGED IN
BUSINESS TIMES APRIL 21 SAYING MACARTHUR ARTICLE
INCORRECT AND THAT THAI ZINC OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED
EMBASSY PLANS FOR SMELTER ARE PROCEEDING AND AT NO TIME
HAS THERE BEEN A DECISION TO ABANDON THE PROJECT.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE PERPLEXED BUT AS GEORGE AMCARTHUR
IS NOW IN THE STATES WE ARE UNABLE DISCUSS ARTICLE WITH
HIM. THAI ZINC MANAGING DIRECTOR FRANK TYE CONFIDES
NEW JERSEY ZINC AND GULF AND WESTERN HAVE PROBLEM AT
MOMENT WITH LOW ZINC PRICES, OVERCAPACITY RESULTING
FROM ANOTHER PLANT IN STATES COMING ON STREAM AND
SOME CASH FLOW CONSTRAINTS. COMPANY IS THEREFORE
TRYING TO FIND FOREIGN PARTNERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THAI
ZINC PROJECT BUT GULF AND WESTERN HAS NO INTENTION
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ABANDON PROJECT IN WHICH THEY HAVE ALREADY MADE
SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OCT: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation Codes:
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Message ID: 524e79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THAI ZINC
TAGS: EMIN, SOPN, TH, US
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vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/524e79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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